WE CLAIM:

1. A digital video recorder (DVR) for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface, the DVR comprising:

(a) a local memory for storing the program data received from the STB;

(b) a plurality of program identifiers;

(c) a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface; and

(d) a DVR controller for:

maintaining the plurality of program identifiers; and

communicating to the STB the plurality of program identifiers independent of when the STB demodulates the program data identified by the program identifiers, wherein the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to modify at least one selected operation of the STB.

2. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of program identifiers identify respective programs scheduled for recording by the DVR.

3. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of program identifiers identify respective programs recorded by the DVR.

4. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

5. The DVR as recited in claim 4, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to display Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data in the STB GUI.

6. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to demodulate the program data identified by the program identifiers.

7. A digital video recorder (DVR) for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface, the DVR comprising:

(a) a local memory for storing the program data received from the STB;

(b) a plurality of program identifiers having information identifying programs to be recorded by the DVR;

(c) a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface; and

(d) a DVR controller for:

receiving from the STB information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI; and

modifying the plurality of program identifiers in response to the information identifying the program selected by the user from the STB GUI.

8. A set top box (STB) for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR) for storing program data received from the STB, the DVR comprising a STB interface and a plurality of program identifiers, the STB comprising:

(a) a tuner for demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface; and

(c) a STB controller for:

generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI);

receiving the plurality of program identifiers from the DVR; and

modifying at least one selected operation of the STB in response to the plurality of program identifiers.

9. The STB as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of program identifiers identify respective programs scheduled for recording by the DVR.

10. The STB as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of program identifiers identify respective programs recorded by the DVR.

11. The STB as recited in claim 8, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

12. The STB as recited in claim 11, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to display Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data in the STB GUI.

13. The STB as recited in claim 8, wherein the STB uses the plurality of program identifiers to demodulate the program data identified by the program identifiers.

14. A set top box (STB) for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR) for storing program data received from the STB, the DVR comprising a STB interface and a plurality of program identifiers having information identifying programs to be recorded by the DVR, the STB comprising:

(a) a tuner for demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface; and

(c) a STB controller for:

generating a STB GUI; and

communicating to the DVR information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI.

15. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface and the DVR comprising a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface, the DVR comprising a local memory, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) receiving the program data from the STB;

(b) storing the program data in the local memory;

(c) maintaining a plurality of program identifiers; and

(d) communicating to the STB the plurality of program identifiers independent of when the STB demodulates the program data identified by the program identifiers, wherein the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to modify at least one selected operation of the STB.

16. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface and the DVR comprising a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface, the DVR comprising a local memory, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) receiving the program data from the STB;

(b) storing the program data in the local memory;

(c) maintaining a plurality of program identifiers;

(d) receiving from the STB information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI; and

(e) modifying the plurality of program identifiers in response to the information identifying the program selected by the user from the STB GUI.

17. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a set top box (STB), the STB for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for storing program data received from the STB, the DVR comprising a STB interface and the STB comprising a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) receiving a plurality of program identifiers from the DVR;

(c) modifying at least one selected operation of the STB in response to the plurality of program identifiers.

18. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a set top box (STB), the STB for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for storing program data received from the STB, the DVR comprising a STB interface and the STB comprising a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI); and

(c) communicating to the DVR information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI.